

June 29, 2005

Freedom Watch

Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan



Task Force Cerberus MPs
battle for Warfighter title

Page 8

Spc. Harold Fields



A U.S. Army Soldier from Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, watches for anti-Coalition militants while waiting to be extracted during a quick reaction force exercise at East River Range near Bagram Airfield June 11.

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Pfc. Matthew Creel, 3rd Platoon, 690th Military Police Co. prepares his Mk-19 grenade launcher for firing during the Warfighter competition at Bagram Airfield June 8-10.

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(Cover) Spc. Brandon Stover of the 202nd Military Police Company carries a water jug on his back during a 5-gallon water jug race. The race was one of nine events for the Warfighter competition.

Freedom Watch

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173rd Combat Support Company clears the way, creates new road



**By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco
20th Public Affairs Detachment**

FOB LAGHMAN, Afghanistan – The Soldiers of 173rd Combat Support Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment are working to build the road to Forward Operating Base Sweeny, a total distance of 84 kilometers, over the next four months.

The road currently isn't accessible by jingle trucks or 18-wheeled vehicles, so the Soldiers of the 173rd will be laying down gravel on the dirt path.

"The theory is that the trucks can still drive on the road when it rains," said Army 1st. Lt. Greg Couterier, Assault and Barrier Platoon leader.

On June 4, the 173rd temporarily paved the road from Qalat to Fire Base Wolverine by smoothing out rough areas of dirt with deployable universal combat earth-movers.

The road to Sweeney runs through Wolverine and the Dab Pass, and connects Shinkay to Qalat and 16 towns in between.

"The last time that road was

built was 35 years ago by the Russians," said Couterier. "They're really happy to have us fixing the road."

Once the road is made safe enough for commercial traffic, a convoy of 98 jingle trucks will bring the materials needed to pave the entire length of the road.

"This road is very important because the area is nearly inaccessible in the winter," said Couterier. "This road will help resupply FOB Sweeny and beyond."

Once the road is finished, it will become a viable military and civilian route of travel.

Currently, there are Afghan National Army soldiers stationed at a compound next to the Wolverine site that assists in the construction project.

"We're going to have the Afghan National Police set up checkpoints around the city and help spread the word to the people," said Couterier. "The ANA will provide additional security for the area."

The Wolverine site is expected to be built by September.



(Top) Two bulldozers, work to create an earthen ramp out of a riverbed on the road to Fire Base Wolverine. **(Above)** Staff Sgt. Ronaldo Reyter, 1st squad leader, directs Pfc. Gregory Caton on an area of road leading to Fire Base Wolverine.

Photos by Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco

Unit offers many tools to handle emergency

Air Force brings assistance to units on the ground

By Air Force Capt. Mark Gibson
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – On a normal day, operations at the 451st Air Expeditionary Group here can be typical of any deployed unit.

Civil engineering Airmen work tirelessly to keep the long-neglected runway open so thousands of Army troops can remain supplied. Aerial port personnel load and unload a seemingly endless stream of incoming aircraft carrying people and equipment.

Services squadron members schedule activities to entertain those deployed to this far-flung location.

Sometimes, however, an event can occur that highlights the uniqueness of the 451st and the Airmen assigned to it.

A perfect example occurred May 22, when an Army convoy traveling north of Kandahar was struck by an improvised explosive device believed to have been set by pro-Taliban forces.

The incident showed how all the parts in such an expeditionary unit work together – and how the Air Force is supporting the war fighters on the ground in southern Afghanistan.

“The Air Force is here as the senior airport authority, but we’re also here to provide critical elements to support the Army’s offensive operations in southern Afghanistan,” said Col. Eric W. Vollmecke, commander of the 451st AEG and a Guardsman deployed from the West Virginia Air National Guard. “With (tactical air control personnel), air evacuation, pararescue and explosive ordnance disposal, we’re not your typical unit by any means.”

The IED caused heavy damage to a Humvee in the column. Traveling with the convoy were tactical air controllers Staff Sgt. Mitchell Yang and Airman 1st Class Kenneth Farrar, who were able to quickly call in air coverage to the site.

“They were able to get aircraft to the scene and help with security for ground forces and rescue personnel,”

said Lt. Col. Wayne Canipe, commander of the tactical air control unit at Kandahar Airfield. “They did their jobs very well.”

While EOD teams scoured the area for secondary devices and investigated the explosion, an Army medical evacuation team transported two wounded soldiers back to Kandahar Airfield for emergency treatment. An Air Force emergency rescue squadron

was also sent up as a backup, which was necessary due to high winds and poor visibility in the area.

One soldier later died as a result of his wounds, with the

second receiving life-saving treatment at Kandahar.

The Army “brought him in here, stabilized him and performed surgery,” said Capt.

Steve Theohares, a flight care coordinator with the 451st Air Evacuation Squadron deployed from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. “That’s when we got involved. We took over his care and got him to Landstuhl, Germany, for follow-up treatment.”

“We were fortunate that a C-17 was in mid-air on a routine mission, and he got here in about five minutes,” he said.

The Soldier “received outstanding

care in the field, there’s no doubt,” Theohares said. “Otherwise, he wouldn’t have made it.”

The cooperation between the Army



Tech. Sgt. Jason Burger a flight engineer of the 451st Air Expeditionary Group checks out the weapons systems on a HH-60G Pave Hawk in preparation of a night mission.

and Air Force and the internal cohesion within the 451st were the difference between life and death, Vollmecke believes.

“The Air Force of 20 years ago would not have been nearly as effective

at operations such as this,” he said. “We have truly succeeded in instilling an expeditionary mindset, and those deploying now understand conditions in the field.”

“We have a strong representation of total force

here, and it’s really coming together on the battlefield.”



Senior Airman Chris Piercecchi adjusts his survival vest in preparation for a rescue mission as **Senior Master Sgt. Jim Sanchez** looks on. Sanchez and Piercecchi are pararescue jumpers attached to the 451st Air Expeditionary Group and deployed from the 305th Rescue Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Photos by Air Force Col. Eric Vollmecke

Afghan Police complete crime scene investigation course

By Army Capt. Cenethea R. Harraway

Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan – The Afghan National Police graduated 11 police investigators from a course in crime scene investigation June 6.

Present at the graduation ceremony, held at the Kabul Police District 10 headquarters, were several key leaders of the Afghan National Police, including Maj. Gen. Abdul-Jamil Junbesh, interim chief of the Kabul City Police, Brig. Gen. Nazar Mohammad Nikzad, chief of Crime Scene Investigation, and Maj. Gen. Ahmad Zai, chief of Education.

During the ceremony, Junbesh talked about the need for different types of police officers such as crime scene investigators, traffic and uniformed police, and others within the ANP. He spoke about how each plays a critical role in Afghan security.

"Today, there is a big challenge facing our security. The security of Kabul and other provinces is harmed by three main factors: terrorism, organized crime groups and warlords," said Junbesh. "With professional attitudes and education, we can deal with warlords, arrest the criminals, and finally, deal with the terrorists and their activities."

Nikzad and members of his CSI team, originally trained by British police officials, conducted the three-week course.

The training included classroom instruction and hands-on, practical exercises. Investigators learned about Afghan law and criminal procedures, protection and documentation of crime scenes, proper collection and preservation of evidence, crime scene photography and other fundamentals. They also completed a written examination.

The Ministry of the Interior officially designated District 10 as the "model" station for Afghan police reform because of its strategic location in the capital. "U.S. civilian police mentors assigned to the District 10 'model' police station project work alongside their Afghan counterparts daily," said Dave Barrington, a U.S. police mentor with DynCorp International.

The goals of the model police station are to: act as a test bed for new ideas; assist with equipment and infrastructure improvements; and establish a model for Afghan police reform at the district/station level.

"The CSI course is only one of many ways in which the ANP is improving their skills," said Barrington. "Together

with cooperation from the Afghan government, the Office of Military Cooperation—Afghanistan and Germany, the lead nation for Afghan National Police reform, we are making significant progress in rebuilding the capabilities of the local police."



Dave Barrington

Afghan National Police investigators participate in a practical exercise involving a mock homicide crime scene.

Enduring Voices

What MWR or leisure activity would you like to see added at your location?



Air Force Staff Sgt. Patrick Sheehan

455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron
"A real movie theater would be great, not just the projection screen at the MWR."



Army Lt. Col. Edward Manning

Combined Joint Task Force-76 logistics
"I'd like to have a swimming pool and would even help dig a pit for it."



Trecka White

Kellogg, Brown and Root
"The internet for your personal computer and more concerts."



Marine Lance Cpl. Damein Young

India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.
"I'd like to have a USO or PX out at Asadabad."

Seventeen insurgents captured near border

**By Army Sgt. 1st Class
Todd Oliver
CJTF-76 Public Affairs**

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Seventeen insurgents armed with rifles were apprehended by Afghan and Coalition forces along the Pakistani border June 6.

The insurgents were in possession of automatic rifles, binoculars, Taliban-sponsored reading material and letters threatening Afghans not to cooperate with Afghan and Coalition forces.

"Insurgent forces have to use violence and the threat of violence to coerce cooperation from Afghans," said Army Brig. Gen. John Sterling, Combined Joint Task Force-76's deputy command-

ing general. "The insurgents and those who support them have been marginalized to the point that the only way they can operate in Afghanistan is through violence and force. That they are forced to resort to threatening letters tells us they are afraid and incapable of operating in sight of Afghan citizens. Afghans know that the government of Afghanistan has already made life here measurably better than it was under the oppressive rule of the Taliban and that each day brings the promise of a better, brighter, more secure future."

The insurgents are in Coalition custody and have been transferred to the detainee holding facility at Bagram Airfield.

Two former Taliban leaders turn in cache

**By Army Sgt. 1st Class
Todd Oliver
CJTF-76 Public Affairs**

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Two former Taliban commanders have reconciled with the government of Afghanistan and turned in a large cache of weapons and ammunition near Mehtar Lam in Laghman Province June 6.

The two former commanders have sworn allegiance to the government of Afghanistan under the provision of the Takhim-E Solh, or Strengthening Peace program. The program allows insurgents to renounce violence and join Afghan society.

The weapons turned in consisted of more than 60 AK-47 assault rifles, dozens of bolt-action rifles, three Russian-manufactured machine guns, more than 35 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, two mortar-launching systems with 75 mortar rounds, one recoilless rifle, one armored vehicle, sev-

eral thousand rounds of anti-aircraft ammunition, two anti-aircraft guns and several hundred thousand rounds of ammunition of various calibers.

"This is a great step forward for both of these men, for the Afghan government and for Afghanistan as a whole," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. John Sterling, Combined Joint Task Force-76's deputy commanding general. "A lot of individuals may fear they or their families will be persecuted if they return, but clearly, this is not the case. The action of these two men sends a clear message to all who may have been Taliban members that if you agree to work with the government and renounce violence, you will be treated fairly and allowed to live in peace."

Government officials in Mehtar Lam worked directly with the former insurgents to facilitate their desire to reconcile with Afghan society.

One insurgent killed, three captured near Qalat

**By Army Sgt. 1st Class Todd Oliver
CJTF-76 Public Affairs**

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Three insurgents were captured and one was killed following an ambush of Afghan and Coalition forces south of Qalat June 4.

Coalition forces reported coming under attack by small-arms fire while moving through a village south of Qalat. Coalition helicopters responded to the scene to assist the patrol.

Afghan and Coalition forces were conducting

security patrols in the area when the ambush occurred.

"Coalition patrols will continue to disrupt insurgent activity and capture or kill those who will bring harm to the Afghan people or derail the peace process," said Army Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara, Combined Joint Task Force-76 public affairs officer.

No Afghan or Coalition forces were killed or injured as a result of the attack.



Photo by Army Spc. Jerry Comes

Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Murphy of the 13th Psychological Operations Battalion gives a stuffed animal to an Afghan boy in the Reg District, Kandahar Province, on June 11.

Medical personnel save Soldier's life after IED attack

By Army Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
20th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Medical professionals helped a U.S. Soldier survive critical burns from an improvised explosive device attack June 3 in Paktika Province.

The Soldier was returning from Gayan when he was wounded by the blast. After being treated on the scene and medically evacuated by helicopter to Forward Operating Base Salerno for treatment, the patient was then sent to Bagram Airfield.

There, he was met by a team of medical professionals from Task Force Strength who treated his life-threatening injuries for the next few hours.

"The atmosphere is a lot thicker when a U.S. casualty comes in; that's what we are here for," said emergency medical technician 1st Lt. M. Kipling Marsh, who treated the Soldier upon arrival.

The patient had second-degree burns on more than 20 percent of his body.

He required immediate treatment and prevention of complications, said staff general surgeon Dr. (Lt. Col.) Arthur B. Chasen.

Chasen said that treating burn victims in Afghanistan is a common occurrence and that the experience of treating Afghans may have helped with the Soldier's treatment.

"The care we gave him was nothing new, but what was different was that he was one of our own, so for everybody

that was involved, it was the reason why we are here," Chasen said.

The severity of the Soldier's injuries were such that the patient needed a higher level of care.

Once again, he was on another aircraft heading to a better medical facility.

"We were originally thinking we would have taken him all the way to (Brooke Army Medical Center,)" said critical care physician Air Force Dr. (Maj.) Peter R. Harding, who treated the patient being on the way to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

Harding is part of a critical care air transport team that operates out of Bagram.

His medical team is able to transport a service member anywhere in the world.

"I think it has a huge impact," Harding said. "He was hurt at 1200 Zulu. We had him in Landstuhl within 24 hours; that's pretty fast.

"From when it happened to when he was in Germany was 20 hours."

The Soldier survived and was scheduled to be transported from Landstuhl to BAMC.

"There is no question that every little stepping stone that the patient hit along the way was a well-placed node in terms of his survival, and if any part of the chain had not been there, the evacuation would have been longer and he would have been in worse shape when he got here," Chasen said. "It made me glad we were here."

The blast killed two other Soldiers on impact.

All-terrain vehicle safety will go a long way

By Spc. Wanda Solomon
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – All-terrain vehicles are springing up more and more on military units' property books and they require some special considerations being used.

ATV's are easily transportable, economical, can get riders into small areas and drive on almost any conceivable surface. However, in untrained hands, they can be very dangerous to the rider and other people around them.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Aric D. Jacobsen of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron says that using ATVs is fun and economical but operators must follow a few safety rules. Jacobsen is a certified ATV Safety Institute instructor.

He said that all riders must attend a safety briefing for ATV usage, complete an inspection of their ATV, wear a safety helmet, kevlar, gloves, protective eye wear, shoes, and protective clothing that covers arms and legs. Finally, riders must follow posted speed-limit signs and signal properly at intersections.

"I believe the ATV instruction that ASI teaches applies to Army, Department of Defense civilians and Marines, not

only Air Force," said Jacobsen.

"Following basic, simple ATV safety rules and properly maintaining your ATV will keep you safe and your ATV operational for a long time," said Jacobsen.



Photo by Army Spc. Wanda Solomon

Air Force Staff Sgt. Aric D. Jacobsen of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron rides a Honda all-terrain vehicle.

Military police compete in Warfighter Challenge

By Army Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
20th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Military police from Task Force Cerberus battled each other here in a competition June 8-10 for a chance to represent the task force at an annual Army MP contest at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Seven teams, each consisting of a staff sergeant, sergeant, or corporal team leader and two specialists or below, competed physically and mentally to become the three-man team from Afghanistan to earn a spot at the 2005 Warfighter Team Challenge Sept. 22 - Oct. 1.

"This shows the diversity of the military police corps," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Carl L. Harris, operations non-commissioned officer in charge for TF Cerberus. "We are able to perform all our major battlefield functions and still able to keep our Soldiers motivated by having them participate in events like this."

Each team was awarded points according to how well they did in a nine-task competition.

Some of the events the Soldiers competed in were weapons proficiency, a written examination, an Army physical fitness test and a two-mile, five-gallon water-jug relay.

Task Force Cerberus is a battalion-size element made up of three units.

The 690th Military Police Company from Florida, the 202nd Military Police Company from Fort Eustis, Va., and the headquarters company, made up of augmented Soldiers, make up the task force.

The winners of the event were Army Sgt. Aldo Mercado and Army Spcs. James Biett and Mark Randolph, all from the 202nd MP Co.

They and an alternate team from the 202nd will represent the task force at the 2005 Warfighter Team Challenge.



Spc. Brandon Stover of the 202nd Military Police Company explains first aid procedure to the judge during the Warfighter competition.



Army Spc. Jermy Davidson of the 690th Military Police Company strains for the next push-up during the Army Physical Fitness Test phase of the Warfighter competition.



Army Spc. Daniel Stack of the 690th MP Co. assesses the medical condition of a mannequin during competition.



Army Sgt. Shawn Hinote of the 202nd MP Co. applies a tourniquet to a mannequin during competition.



Army Sgt. Ryan Clark (left) and Spc. Daniel Stack (right), both of the 690th MP Co., compete in the jug race.





(Left) Army Sgt. Aldo Mercado of the 202nd MP Co. takes a defensive position while Army Spc. Mark Randolph prepares to set up a tripod for the MK-19 grenade launcher during the Warfighter competition. Seven MP teams competed in the three day event held at Bagram Airfield, June 8 - 10.



(Above) Army Spcs. Mark Randolph, left, and James Brett, of the 202nd MP Co. set up the MK-19 grenade launcher during the Warfighter competition.



Army Sgt. Aldo Mercado continues his defensive position while Army Spc. Mark Randolph sets up a tripod for the MK-19 grenade launcher.

(Below) Army Spc. James Brett of the 202nd MP Co. prepares his MK-19 grenade launcher for firing while Army Sgt. Aldo Mercado takes a defensive position during the Warfighter competition.



Work begins on new center for Afghan army recruits

By Army Lt. Col. Wayne Yoshioka
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan – The Military Entrance Processing Station in Kabul is the place where all new recruits will begin their journey to become soldiers in the Afghan National Army.

The MEPS, which is now under construction, is also where some Afghan workers are taking their place in the reconstruction of their country.

Maj. Isaac Washington, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' resident project manager for the MEPS facility, said, "Over the next six months, we'll construct some 12 buildings from nothing to something at a cost of approximately \$9 to \$10 million. When the buildings are completed at the end of this year, the Afghan National Army will be able to house and feed 2,400 recruits."

With all the work to be done in such a short time, the demand for Afghan construction workers and equipment operators has been high. After more than two decades of war, finding skilled craftsmen trained in modern construction techniques has not been easy.

Mazin Adiq, managing partner of FCC 1 Projects Joint Venture, one of three Afghan contractors for the MEPS job, said finding local talent has been

both a gamble and an exercise in patience.

"Most of the Afghans here are trained on old, traditional construction methods: clay bricks, wooden roofs," said Adiq. "You have to take the time to tell them what it's going to take to provide the quality that's expected for a Corps (of Engineers) job. If you give them the time and the training, they will succeed."

Adiq and his associates began setting up his company three years ago. Today, 80 percent of his workers are Afghans. It's been a learning experience with the growing pains of any start-up company in the market for skilled workers, said Adiq.

"We brought in a lot of experts from outside (Afghanistan)," said Adiq. "Some would stay for one night and go back home. They're not used to the environment here. The Afghans, they know what it takes to build their country; they're motivated to do so."

The problem facing construction firms like FCC 1 was to simultaneously train their workforce on the job as they continued with various phases of their construction projects. "Our role was to give them the tools," said Adiq. "It was tough and they make mistakes. You pay for those mistakes, but at the end of

the day we proved to the rest of the market that this is the right model."

The need for skilled labor grows as reconstruction projects increase in size and scope.

"At this point in time, we have a 500 to 600 total working force," said Washington. "The end number will probably be about 700 after all this is finished."

The pace to complete these projects is also accelerating as Afghan contractors train local talent and get better and faster.

"The most important thing we can do is promote professionalism in the construction trades," Washington said. "A project is started, inspected and turned over to the customer in six to eight months rather than the normal year to two years it takes to build."

Reconstruction in Afghanistan is a major undertaking for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is probably the most visible evidence of the nation's recovery following decades of war damage and the ensuing neglect in building maintenance.

Adiq, sounding like the Army recruits who will soon occupy the MEPS complex, said, "We've just started. This is our first six months. I think we've proven ourselves."

Religious Services Around the CJOA

Camp Eggers

Sunday

0630 - Christian Worship Service
1030 - Christian Worship Service (U.S. Embassy Marine Lounge)
1430 - Christian Worship Service
1530 - Small Group Study 301
1600 - Small Group Study 201

Tuesday

1430 - Small Group Study 401

Friday

0830 - Latter-Day Saints
1330 - Small Group Study 101
1430 - Coffee House Ministry

Saturday

1130 - Catholic Mass

Camp Phoenix

Sunday

0430 - Catholic (Italian)
0530 - Non-Denominational Prot.
1330 - Catholic (French)
1530 - Non-Denominational Prot.

Tuesday

1430 - Bible Study

Wednesday

1430 - Gospel Bible Study

Saturday

1430 - Gospel Worship Service

FOB Salerno

Sunday

0300 - Foundations Bible Class
0400 - Traditional Prot. Worship
0530 - Catholic Mass
0730 - Latter-Day Saints
0830 - Gospel Service
1400 - Inspirational Movie Night

Saturday

1500 - Contemporary Prot.

Bagram Airfield

Sunday

0400 - Liturgical Prot.
0530 - Roman Catholic Mass
0830 - Latter-Day Saints
0700 - Traditional Prot.
1115 - Korean Language Prot.
1300 - Gospel Service

Monday

1400 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday

1400 - Gospel Bible Study
1545 - Prot. Music Rehearsal

Wednesday

1600 - Catholic Music Rehearsal

Thursday

1430 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

Friday

1430 - Jewish Prayer
1500 - Women's Bible Study

Saturday

0500 - Seventh-Day Adventist
1330 - Korean Choir Rehearsal
1515 - Roman Catholic Mass
1630 - Prot. Choir Rehearsal
Daily, Monday-Friday
0700 - Roman Catholic Mass
0745 - Noon-Day prayer

Kandahar Airfield

Sunday

0330 - Protestant Service
0500 - Catholic Mass
0600 - Protestant Service (SF Comp. Chapel)
0600 - Orthodox Service (Romanian Orth. Chapel)

0630 - Protestant Service

0830 - Latter Day Saint Services

1430 - Gospel Service

Monday - Friday

0700 - Catholic Mass (When Available)

Wednesday

1530 - Protestant Mid-Week Service

Friday

1430 - Jewish Sabbath Service
1530 - Egyptian Coptic Christian Service

Saturday

1330 - Protestant Service
1530 - Catholic Mass

*** All times
Zulu/GMT**

Laptop connects general anywhere he goes

By Army Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
20th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan –Military history has proven that technological advances during U.S. campaigns have led to success on the battlefield.

From the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom, equipment in the hands of service members has advanced from simplistic to sophisticated.

Within the past month, the inclusion of the Joint Task Force Commander Executive Command and Control Project is another advancement that can lead to success on the battlefield.

Known as the flyaway kit, the project is a computer package that allows the JTF commander, Maj. Gen. Jason K. Kamiya, remote access to classified and unclassified networks through a mobile kit.

"It has become essential for today's commanders to remain in communication with their subordinates and to receive the latest information from the battlefield and to be able to securely pass their decisions and information to battlefield commanders," said Matt Iannelli, a contractor who works for the Combined Joint Task Force-76 Communication section.

Information technology has become crucial to command and control func-

tions, Iannelli said. The Department of Defense efforts have made several attempts at devising solutions that offer remote command and control functionality to JTF commanders as they move throughout, and sometimes outside of, their theaters of operations.

The kit, which has a router, two laptops and an encryption device, can establish a tunnel of communications through commercial internet service provider to connect to the classified and unclassified networks, said Capt. Matthew Peck, CJ6 battle captain. The router interfaces with the unclassified network and the encryption device interfaces the classified laptop to access the secret network, which allows the laptops to access information significant to commanding and controlling operations.

"It's two different networks operating off the same transmission path," Iannelli said.

When the commander wants to use the flyaway kit, coordination between the commander and a team of technical experts at Bagram needs to be organized before he can access the network, Iannelli said.

"As long as the data team does its part in this coordination, Major General Kamiya's experience with using this kit will be seamless. It will be as if he never left his office," he said.

Afghan forces capture IED maker

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Todd Oliver
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Afghan National Army forces reported the capture of Mullah Sultan near Farah on June 2 after conducting a raid in search of him.

He is accused of assisting in the construction and emplacement of improvised explosive devices in western Afghanistan. He is also accused of harboring a large cache of weapons stolen while he was a division commander under the Taliban government and having ties to narcotics-smuggling operations.

"Afghan National Army forces worked their own intelligence sources to develop knowledge of the areas Mullah Sultan might be operating from," said Army Brig. Gen. James G. Champion, Combined Joint Task Force-76's deputy commanding general for operations. "Acting on that intelligence, ANA forces conducted the raid. The detention of insurgents like Mullah Sultan means that Afghanistan is a safer place today than it was yesterday."

10 flee Coalition, one detained in separate incidents

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Todd Oliver
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Coalition forces reported that Afghan National Army soldiers had detained one individual after he was observed making notes and using a mirror to signal from various locations near an ANA compound. When approached by an Afghan National Army patrol the individual attempted to flee but was captured. He indicated during questioning that he had been paid by enemy forces to provide reconnaissance of the area.

In a separate incident a group of eight to 10 suspected enemy were spotted gathering along a road north west of Mehtar Lam. Coalition intelligence sources indicated that an insurgent leader was among their numbers. Coalition and Afghan forces responded quickly to the area but were unable to locate the individuals in question.



Photo by Army Spc. Wanda Solomon

CJTF-76 Commander, Army Maj. Gen. Jason K. Kamiya, left, and Army Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Room, award shoulder sleeve insignia for foreign war-time service to CJTF-76 commanders and sergeants major June 12. The senior leaders then awarded the combat shoulder patches to their subordinate Soldiers.

The right to know:

Service members have obligation to understand what they are fighting for

Editorial by Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie
20th Public affairs Detachment

What are we doing here?

It is a simple enough question.

It is a question that everyone serving in Afghanistan should know the answer to. It is a question that everyone here should be asking themselves and their leadership.

Military personnel of all ranks need to know the state of Operation Enduring Freedom. From pulling guard duty to building schools to distributing mail, we all play some part in the daily cycle of operations. Understanding how each piece of our efforts contributes to the whole is the individual responsibility of each service member, and the group responsibility of our leadership.

Afghanistan is a combat zone. Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen here put their lives at risk every day just by their presence. Lives have been lost, and lives will be lost until the mission is complete. Doesn't that earn those of us here the right to know how our efforts are contributing to the success of the mission in Afghanistan?

And by knowing, is it not the responsibility of those of us left behind to make sure that their sacrifices were not in vain? That we cement their legacy by completing the mission that is Afghanistan?

Also, shouldn't we as service members be able to articulate what it is we are trying to accomplish to our family and friends waiting for us at home? That once we return, we can say, "This is what I did, and this is why I did it"?

The answer to all of these questions is "yes". We all have a

right to know what we are participating in. We have the right to ask our leaders what their intent is. It is the responsibility of our leaders to let us know. All of us have the right to be informed about the overall mission so that we can know that what we are doing has a purpose, and is the right thing to do.

Why do we have these rights? We have these rights because we are part of a volunteer military force. We chose to represent the ideals of freedom and democracy that our nation is founded on. Our friends and family willingly sacrifice in our absence. Every one of us has the ability to comprehend the scope of operations in Afghanistan. We can ask what we are fighting for because we are American Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen.

Now this does not mean that we have the right to refuse anything that we don't agree with. As service members, we are sworn to follow all legal orders of our leaders. While not all orders and directives are popular, they all serve some purpose. Rather, it means that once knowing what we are trying to accomplish, we can use that knowledge to strengthen our conviction, reaffirm our faith and complete our mission to the best of our ability. Information is power, and all service members should be as well equipped as possible in the war on terror.

For the record, the mission of OEF is officially stated as, "To conduct full spectrum operations throughout Afghanistan in order to establish enduring security, set the conditions for the defeat of al-Qaida and associated groups, deter the re-emergence of terrorism in the region and shape the environment for a safe elections process."

Want to know what that fully means?

I suggest you ask someone.



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Soldiers from Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, sharpen their skills during a Quick Reaction Force exercise at East River Range near Bagram Airfield, on June 10.

*Spc. Harold Fields
 Combat Camera*

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil. Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

Q & A with the IG

By CJTF-76 Inspector General's Office

Q: I disagree with the content of my NCO evaluation report. What can the inspector general do?

A: Soldiers must seek the prescribed procedures available in Army Regulation 623-205, Noncommissioned Officer Evaluations. "In accordance with AR 20-1, Inspector General Activities and Procedures, Once the Soldier has used the available redress procedures, IG action is limited to a review of the situation to determine if the Soldier was afforded the due process provided by law or regulation."

AR 623-205, Chapter 6, addresses the two primary means of seeking redress. The first is a Commander's Inquiry. A Commander's Inquiry is used to correct errors and obvious injustices before they become matters of permanent record. Submit your written request to the first commander (in the grade of major or above) in your chain of command above the designated rating officials involved in the allegations. The second means is an appeal. Appeals are used to correct errors that are already

part of a Soldier's official record. The burden of proof rests with you. Therefore, you must produce evidence that establishes clearly and convincingly that action is warranted to correct a material error, inaccuracy, or injustice.

The following Web site gives additional assistance on preparing appeals: <http://www.hrc.army.mil>. Select the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center (EREC) link and scroll down to "NCOER Information".

Q: What are the guidelines for corrective training?

A: IAW AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, paragraph 4-6b: "One of the most effective administrative corrective measures is extra training or instruction." The training, instruction, or correction given to a Soldier must be directly related to the deficiency and oriented to improving the Soldier's performance in the problem area. Corrective measures must assume the nature of training or instruction (not punishment) and may be given after normal duty hours. Finally, corrective training should continue only until the training deficiency is overcome.



Photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Leveque

Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Neumann, 173rd Combat Support Co., and Afghan child return a trash can up at the front gate of FOB Ripley.

Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week



Afghan cultural tidbit

Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week:
Where am I?

Dari

Man Koja Hastum
Man-ku-ja-has-tum

Pashtu

Za Chairta yem
Za-chai-rta-yem

Before 1969, schools existed, but whether a child attended or not was completely up to the family. Some families thought it was important and took great efforts to get their children educated, including sending them away to relatives if local schooling wasn't available. Other families provided religious training for their sons (mostly rote memorization of the Koran in Arabic, taught by the local mullah). Still other families did not send their children to school at all.

(Source: <http://www.culturalorientation.net/afghan/aeco.html>)



Soldiers from Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 141st Parachute Infantry Regiment, Texas Army National Guard sharpen their skills during a quick reaction force exercise at East River Range near Bagram Airfield, on June 10.



Freedom Watch

June 29, 2005



It is fatal to enter any war without
the will to win it.

General Douglas MacArthur

Spc. Johnny R. Aragon of the 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera), Fort Meade, Md., prepares ordnance to be demolished near Kandahar May 12. U.S. and Romanian Soldiers, and members of the British Royal Air Force were involved in a joint effort to destroy 20,000 pounds of ordnance that was either confiscated or belonged to Coalition forces and was determined to be unusable. Photo by Spc. Jerry T. Combes